blasts and other subversive activities from taking place.

(d) and (e) To counter the activities of Pak ISI the following steps have been taken:

(i) Barbed Wire fencing and flood lighting on Indo Pak border in Punjab (except some riverine gaps) and along major parts of border in Rajasthan has been erected. On the line of control and the International Border in the J&K which is a major source of infiltration from across the border, deployment of Army and BSF units have been strengthened on infiltration routes and in the interior areas as a second line of defence.

(ii) Effective vigilance all along the Indo-Pak border is maintained through patrolling by BSF with additional support from state police.

(iii) Militant cadres in J&K have suffered heavy casualities and many outfits have lost their top ranking leaders. In Punjab a break-through has been achieved in many recent cases and several suspects of left over Punjab militant groups who have cross-border linkages have been arrested.

(iv) Regular exchange of intelligence takes place between the States on the one hand and between these states and the Central Intelligence agencies on the other.

(v) Extra vigil is being maintained at public places such as Bus Stands, Railway Stations, Cinema Halls etc. and general public have been alerted about suspicious objects lying unattended at these places.

(vi) Vigilance along Indo-Nepal border is also being strengthened.

उत्तर प्रदेश के तराई क्षेत्र से सिख किसानों को विस्थापित किया जाना

*108. **श्री एस०एस० अहलुवालिया:** क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि देश के अनेक भागों में, विशेषकर उत्तर प्रदेश के तराई क्षेत्र में, सिख किसानों को भूमि परिसीमन के नाम में उन्हें उनकी भूमि से बेदखल कर विस्थापित करने की कार्यवाही चल रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार को इस बात की भी जानकारी है कि इन किसानों ने इन इलाकों की बंजर भूमि को उपजाऊ बनाने में कड़ी मेहनत की थी; यदि हां, तो अब उन्हें विस्थापित करने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) उत्तर प्रदेश तथा देश के अन्य भागों के सिख किसानों को विस्थापित होने से बचाने हेतु सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है?

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री (श्री किंजरापू येरन्नायडु): (क) से (घ) उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार से सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और इसे सभा पटल पर रख दिया जाएगा।

Persons responsible in Purulia Arms Dropping Case

*109. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether anybody has been held responsible for the callous indifference shown in the arms dropping in Purulia by officials of Home, Defence and Civil Aviation Departments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) and (b) The Central Bureau of Investigation, which has been entrusted with the investigation of the Purulia Arms Drop Case, has informed that enquiries have been conducted as regards lapses on the part of various agencies/departments at Delhi, Varanasi, Calcutta, Madras and Mumbai. Though preliminary reports regarding the lapses committed by various

individual/departments have already been sent to the Government, further investigation of the case is going on and exact nature of the lapses on the part of various departments and officials will be clear only after this part of investigation is completed. Efforts are being made by CBI to complete this work also at the earliest. Details can be given after completion of investigation.

Voluntary retirement scheme in Textile Industry

*110. **SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:**
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress made in the implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Textile industry;

(b) the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has received the request from the State Government of Maharashtra to reimburse the amount under NRF Scheme; and

(d) if so, by when it will be reimbursed?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The progress of implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in the textile undertakings under the Ministry of Textiles, is as follows:

Name of Undertaking	No. of worker's who availed VRS upto 31.3.97
National Textile Corporation Ltd. & its subsidiaries	46,217
British India Corporation Ltd. (BIC)	1099
Elgin Mills Company Ltd.*	3881
Cawnpore Textile Ltd.*	847

(*: BIC subsidiaries)

(c) and (d) The State Government of Maharashtra has requested Ministry of Industry for assistance of Rs. 74.83 crores from the National Renewal Fund (NRF) for payment of gratuity and compensation under VRS to the staff of Maharashtra State Textile Corporation Ltd. and the Textile Corporation of Marathwada Ltd.

According to Ministry of Industry, assistance from the NRF is presently restricted to the VRS in Central PSUs and of the scheme of retraining and counselling.

Telephone connections in Post Offices and Village Panchayats in Gujarat

*111. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post Offices in Gujarat where telephone connections are yet to be provided; and

(b) the number of Panchayats where no telephone connection with STD facility has been provided so far and the steps being taken by Government for installation of telephones with STD facility in all the Panchayats in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) 6446 number of Post Offices in Gujarat are not having telephone facilities.

(b) There are total 13,510 Gram Panchayats in Gujarat. So facility is available in 3879 Panchayats of Gujarat as on 30th June, 1997. However 12,456 Gram Panchayats in Gujarat have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) facilities and these are without STD as on 30th June, 1997. Government is having plan to provide STD facilities to all Exchanges during IXth plan period from where STD can be provided on demand.

Amount spent on National Highway No. 5

*112. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state: